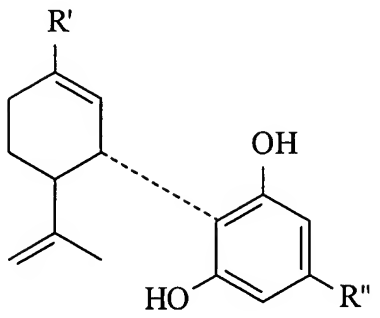
Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An optically pure (+) enantiomer of a compound of the formula:



Formula I

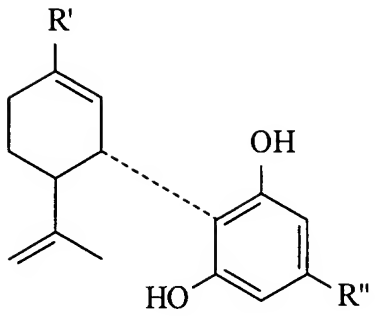
wherein:

- R' designates a —COOH or —CH_2OH group, and
- R" designates (i) a straight or branched C_5-C_{12} alkyl group, or (ii) an —OR"' group wherein R"' designates a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group, or a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group [~~which may be optionally~~] substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or (iii) a —$(CH_2)_n$—O—C_{1-5} alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7;

with the proviso that R' is not —CH_2OH when R" is pentyl or dimethylheptyl, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof.

2. (Original) The (+) enantiomer of claim 1, wherein R' is —COOH and R" is a pentyl or dimethylheptyl group.

3. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition containing as active ingredient a compound [~~of formula I wherein the substituents are as defined in claim 1~~] of the formula:



Formula I

wherein:

- R' designates a —COOH or —CH_2OH group, and

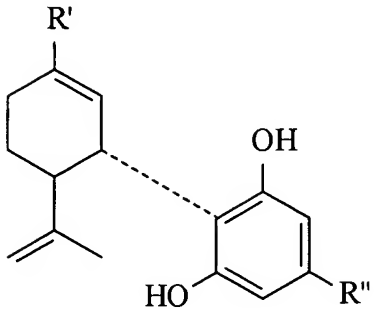
- R" designates (i) a straight or branched C_5-C_{12} alkyl group, or (ii) an —OR"' group wherein R"' designates a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group, or a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or (iii) a —$(CH_2)_n$—O—C_1-$_5$ alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7;

with the proviso that R' is not —CH_2OH when R" is pentyl or dimethylheptyl, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof and

[~~optionally~~] further comprising at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive, excipient or diluent.

4 ~~5~~. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3, [~~optionally~~] comprising an additional pharmaceutically active agent.

5 ~~6~~. (Currently Amended) [~~Use of a~~] A (+) enantiomer of a compound of the formula:



Formula Ia

wherein R' designates a CH_3, —COOH or —CH_2OH group and R" designates a straight or branched C_5-C_{12} alkyl group, an —OR"' group wherein R"' designates a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group or a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group [~~which may be optionally~~] substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or a —$(CH_2)_n$—O—C_{1-5} alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester for use as a selective modulator of the peripheral cannabinoid system.

6 ~~7~~. (Currently Amended) [~~Use of the~~] The (+) enantiomer of [~~a compound of formula Ia~~] claim 5 for use as an analgesic agent.

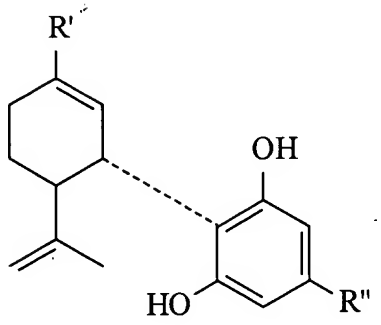
7 ~~8~~. (Currently Amended) [~~Use of the~~] The (+) enantiomer of [~~a compound of formula Ia~~] claim 5, for use as a modulator of the immune system.

8 ~~9~~. (Currently Amended) [~~Use of the~~] The (+) enantiomer of [~~a compound of formula Ia~~] claim 5 for use as anti-inflammatory agent.

9 ~~10~~. (Currently Amended) [~~Use of the~~] The (+) enantiomer of [~~a compound of formula Ia~~] claim 5 for use as a modulator of the gastrointestinal tract.

10 ~~11~~. (Currently Amended) [~~Use of the~~] The (+) enantiomer of [~~a compound of formula Ia~~] claim 5 for use as anti-diarrheal agent.

11 ~~12~~. (Currently Amended) [~~Use of the (+) enantiomer of a compound for formula (Ia) wherein the substituents are as defined in claim 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, in the preparation of a pharmaceutically composition for the selective treatment of disorders~~] A method of selectively treating a disorder associated with the peripheral cannabinoid system in a subject in need, comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a (+) enantiomer of a compound of formula



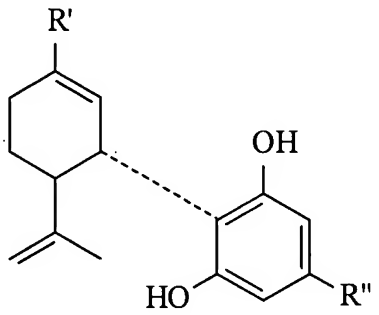
Formula Ia

wherein R' designates a CH_3, —COOH or —CH_2OH group and R" designates a straight or branched C_5-C_{12} alkyl group, an —OR"' group wherein R"' designates a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group or a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or a —$(CH_2)_n$—O—C_{1-5} alkyl group, wherein n is an

integer of from 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

12 ~~13~~. (Currently Amended) The [~~use~~] method of claim 11, [~~in the preparation of an analgesic pharmaceutical composition~~] wherein said disorder is pain.

13 ~~14~~. (Currently Amended) [~~Use of the~~] A method of selectively treating an immune disorder associated with the peripheral cannabinoid system in a subject in need, comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of (+) enantiomer of a compound of formula [~~Ia wherein the substituents are as defined in claim 5~~]

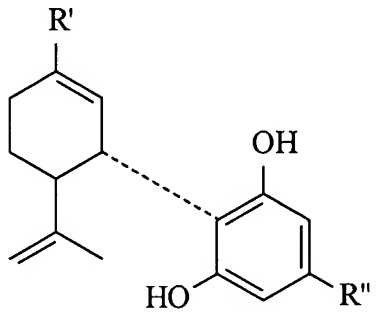


Formula Ia

wherein R' designates a CH_3, —COOH or —CH_2OH group and R" designates a straight or branched C_5-C_{12} alkyl group, an —OR"' group wherein R"' designates a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group or a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or a —$(CH_2)_n$—O—C_{1-5} alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof [~~in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of the immune disorders associated with the peripheral cannabinoid system~~].

14 ~~15~~. The [~~use~~] method of claim 13, [~~in the preparation of an anti-inflammatory agent~~] wherein said disorder is inflammation.

15 ~~16~~. (Currently Amended) [~~Use of the~~] A method of selectively treating a disorder associated with the gastrointestinal tract in a subject in need, comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of (+) enantiomer of a compound of formula [~~Ia wherein the substituents are as defined in claim 5~~]

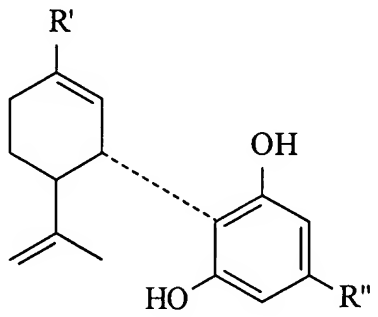


Formula Ia

wherein R' designates a CH_3, —COOH or —CH_2OH group and R" designates a straight or branched C_5-C_{12} alkyl group, an —OR"' group wherein R"' designates a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group or a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or a —$(CH_2)_n$—O—C_{1-5} alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof [~~, in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disorder associated with the gastrointestinal tract~~].

16 ~~17~~. (Currently Amended) The [~~use~~] method of claim 15, [~~in the preparation of an anti-diarrheal pharmaceutical composition~~] wherein said disorder is diarrhea.

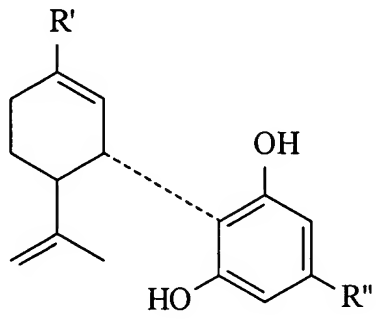
17 ~~18~~. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the selective treatment of disorders associated with the peripheral cannabinoid system comprising as active ingredient a compound of formula [~~Ia~~]



Formula Ia

wherein R' designates a CH_3, —COOH or —CH_2OH group and R" designates a straight or branched C_5-C_{12} alkyl group, an —OR"' group wherein R"' designates a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group or a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or a —$(CH_2)_n$—O—C_{1-5} alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

18 ~~19~~. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment of peripheral conditions, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising as active ingredient a compound of formula



Formula Ia

wherein R' designates a CH_3, —COOH or —CH_2OH group and R" designates a straight or branched C_5-C_{12} alkyl group, an —OR"' group wherein R"' designates a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group or a straight or branched C_5-C_9 alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or a —$(CH_2)_n$—O—C_{1-5} alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof [~~as defined in claim 17~~] to a subject in need.

19 ~~20~~. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein said peripheral conditions are [~~any one~~] selected from the group consisting of inflammatory bowel disease, diarrhea and inflammatory pain.